

A Primer on Climate Action Plans: What are Other Oregon and Western U.S. Cities Doing?

-- Prepared by Russ Donnelly for the Bend Climate Ordinance Working Group --

As Bend considers passing a climate action ordinance, it is valuable to know what other municipalities in Oregon and the western U.S. have been doing in the same policy area.

Oregon Cities with Pending or Established Climate Action Plans

The Oregon cities below have pending or adopted climate action ordinances and/or climate action plans that include specific GHG reduction targets to be met over a period of years (e.g. – 2030 and 2050). Some cities have used sustainability plans that includes GHG reduction targets. Other have used the GHG reduction targets as the lead element in their climate plans.

City	Population	Plan (Year of Implementation)	GHG Reduction Target 1	GHG Reduction Target 2
Ashland (a)	20,713	Climate and Energy Action Plan (2017)	RFP Released 12/15, targets TBD	RFP Released 12/15, targets TBD
Beaverton (b)	92,697	Sustainability Action Plan (2014)	N/A	80% by 2050
Corvallis (a)	55,008	Climate Action Plan (2017)	57% by 2030	83% by 2050
Eugene (b)	160,000	Climate Recovery Plan (2014)	50% by 2030	80% by 2050
Gresham (b)	109,397	Sustainability Initiative (2011)	100% renew/2030	80%/2050
McMinnville (b)	33,139	Sustainability Action Plan (2009)	10% by 2015	N/A
Milwaukie (b)	20,512	Sustainability Plan (2009)	10% by 2015	100% renewable by 2029
Portland (b)	610,000	Climate Action Plan (rev. 2015)	40% by 2030	80% by 2050

(a) Cities with Pending Climate Action Plans or Environmental Action Plans:

(b) Cities with adopted Climate Action Plans

Cities in Other Western States with Climate Action Plans

Other Western/ Southwest Cities:	Population	Plan (Year of Implementation)	GHG Reduction Target 1	GHG Reduction Target 2
Albuquerque, NM	556,495	Climate Action Plan (2009)	30% by 2020	80% by 2050
Boulder, CO*	103,166	Climate Action Plan Commitment 2015, w/ Climate Commission	20%/2020	44% by 2030 81% by 2050
Fort Collins, CO	152,061	Updated Climate Action Plan (2015)	20% by 2020	80% by 2030 Neutral by 2050
Sacramento, CA	479,686	Climate Action Plan (2005)	38% by 2030	80% by 2050**
San Diego, CA	1,356,000	Climate Action Plan (2015)	40% by 2030	80% by 2050**
San Francisco, CA	837,442	GHG Reduction Ord. (2008)	40% by 2025	80% by 2050
Seattle, WA	652,405	Climate Action Plan (2013)	40% by 2030	Net Zero GHG emissions by 2050

* - Boulder has had a CAP Tax since 2006. It was extended in 2015.

** - Legally binding (research on entire list not complete)

Sample of Common Categories and Strategies for Action Plans

In researching more than 25 cities' current, pending and implemented climate/sustainability action plans, there were five consistent categories of greenhouse gas emissions and associated reduction strategies. The categories, with examples of strategies, are:

- Buildings and Energy
 - Move toward 100% renewable energy sources
 - Net zero energy codes
 - Energy-efficient retrofits
 - Create a public free-energy capturing system and related incentives (for city and community)
 - More urban density/mix-use neighborhoods
 - Incentives for developers: E.g. – give developers options to reduce GHGs with their projects. In return, they get points and after achieving certain thresholds, they are permitted to bypass certain parts of the environmental review process. [Santee, Ca.]
- Food and Agriculture
 - Buy/Eat local, vegetarian
 - Soil sequestration

- Expand community gardens
- Land Use and Transportation
 - Encourage 20-minute neighborhoods
 - Incentivizing Efficiencies
 - Increase level of bikeability and walkability
 - Build electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - Invest in broadband connectivity to promote telecommuting
- Urban Forests and Natural Resources/Systems
 - Plant trees/Forest management
 - Create wildfire defensible spaces
- Consumption and Waste
 - Reduce consumption/expand composting
 - Expand recycling
 - Mayor's Climate/Carbon Challenge

Some cities have a three additional categories as a part of their key climate action plan categories: Education, Equity, and Climate Change Adaptation/Preparation. Equity means the just distribution of the benefits of climate protection and alleviation of unequal burdens created by climate change.

Ten Typical Renewal Energy/Carbon Emissions Reduction Goals:

- Create **Clean Tech Jobs** focusing on innovation
- Reduce Per Capita **Energy Use** by 50%
- Receive 100% of Our **Electrical Power** from Clean, Renewable Sources
- Build or Retrofit a targeted number of Square Feet of **Green Buildings**
- **Divert 100% of waste** from Landfill and **Convert Waste** to Energy
- Recycle or Beneficially Reuse 100% of **Wastewater**
- Adopt a General Plan with **Measurable Standards** for Sustainable Development
- Ensure that 100 Percent of city **Fleet Vehicles Run on Alternative Fuels**
- Plant **100,000 New Trees** and Replace 100 Percent of Streetlights with **Smart, Zero Emission Lighting**
- Create Miles of **Trails** connecting with miles of on-street **bikeways**